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The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, met in regular session on Monday, March 13, 1978, at 3:00 o'clock p.m., in the Council Chamber, City Hall, with Mayor Kenneth R. Harris presiding, and Councilmembers Betty Chafin, Tom Cox, Charlie Dannelly, Harvey Gantt, Ron Leeper, Pat Locke, George Selden, Milton Short and Minette Trosch present.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Don Carroll and Laura Frech.

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INVOCATION.

The invocation was given by Reverend Forbis Kivett, St. Paul Wesleyan Church.

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT FROM MEETING BECAUSE THEY ARE OUT OF CITY ON PERSONAL BUSINESS.

During the meeting, Mayor Harris advised that Councilmembers Carroll and Frech will not attend the meeting today. That Ms. Frech is on a business trip with her husband, and Mr. Carroll is in Court in the western part of the State.

MINUTES APPROVED.

Upon motion of Councilmember Chafin, seconded by Councilmember Cox, and un-animously carried, the minutes of the Council Meeting on Monday, February 27, and Monday, March 6, 1978 were approved as submitted.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE USE OF GENERAL REVENUE SHARING FUNDS.

The public hearing on the use of General Revenue Sharing Funds was held as provided under Section 51.13 of the Revenue Sharing Legislation.

The following persons appeared with their requests:

Mr. Tom McGill, 1625 McAllister Drive, made a request for a park in the Garden Park-Northwood Estates Area. Mr. McGill stated since he appeared before City Council recently with his request, Mr. Diehl and Mr. Ott of the Parks Department came out and toured the land, and stated they had not seen a site in Charlotte that needed a park than the proposed site. He stated he will go before the Planning Commission on March 22 along with the other residents in this area. But he would like for City Council to consider giving the children in this area a park, and getting them out of the street.

Mr. Jerry Berne, 110 E. 7th Street - Charlotte Summer Pops Orchestra.

Mr. Berne stated he is speaking for the Summer Pops and the other groups using the Freedom Park Amphitheater. The official park's estimates for concerts in the park last year was 50,000 people. They have become the third largest performing arts unit in the City.

They along with the other groups using the theater have a problem. It is an acoustical problem with the band shell. It was not designed acoustically; it does not have a sound system to help it out, and all performances suffer because of this. The sound system they lease for the events during the summer is a good sound system, and better than any other sound system available at this time is inferior for the type of music and the performances they are doing.

Having talked with other people who use the shell, and those who would use it if the sound system was available, they decided the only way to solve this is to put in a new permanently mounted sound system, plus some acoustical uplifting of the theater, either by adding sound boards, reflectors which can be movable, or fixed units for stage presentation. The approximate cost

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would be about \$25,000 for a minimal sound system, as well as about \$5,000 minimum for the acoustical screening necessary to make the amphitheater a good sound reflective unit. That he can get more information to Council as to what it consists of, and how soon it could be in place at their request.

Councilmember Short stated the Council approved the spending of several thousand dollars for a speaker system and sound system -remote unit to be used by the City Council; could that system serve two uses? The City Manager replied he does not know enough about that. Councilmember Gantt stated Mr. Berne is talking about something entirely different. Mr. Berne stated they do need a smaller sound system for their concerts when they move around; but the one needed for Freedom Park is immense compared to anything they have had so far. Councilmember Chafin stated the system could use considerable improvement.

Mr. Berne stated he has talked with a sound engineer who says if this is approved, a system could be in place in time, if all the components are available, by the beginning of the Concert Season, June 4; they figure it will be somewhere between \$20 and \$25 thousand and will be a system upon which you could build in later years. The sound system for the traveling concerts would be a much smaller unit. If they really want to talk about something that would be very nice, it is an additional \$20,000 for a Wagner Showmobile, which has a self contained system. The system they are now using is probably \$10,000 and that is one moved out to the park. The small ensembles' system would probably be about \$2500.

Leslie Winner, Legal Aid Society, Attorney. Ms. Winner stated she has become aware of the housing crisis for low income people in the city. She cited two cases concerning her clients. One came in saying she was evicted because of housing code violations, and the landlord decided to board up the house. She called the landlord and received time for the client to find a place to live. This was in October. She started looking for a place for her and her two small children; she continued looking for two months with the only criteria being she could afford it and she would have some way to heat it. In December the landlord could not wait any longer and evicted her. She still had not found a place to live and moved in with her mother in an overcrowded house in Charlotte. To date she has not found a place to live that she can afford with heat.

Another client came in in October having been told to leave her apartment shortly after complaining the toilet upstairs was dripping sewage through her ceiling and into her kitchen. Legal Aid tried to and is still trying to defend her in legal proceedings. She started in October trying to find another place to live. She has a small child and her only income is some money from child support from the father, and some money from ASEC. With the help of relocation she has been trying to find a place to live with heat that she can afford. She still has not found another place to live.

Ms. Winner stated she called the Housing Authority this morning to find out the situation with public housing and Section 8 housing. That she is limiting herself to three bedroom housing to cite some statistics. There are 195 people waiting for three bedroom certificates and Section 8 housing. There are no certificates available now; there may be 25 certificates available in the future from the First Ward settlement. No one know for sure of any other certificates coming down the line. In public housing there are 210 people on the waiting list for three bedroom units; there are only 735 three bedroom units, and there is a very small turnover in those units.

The housing crisis is apparent. In recognition of that need, City Council has established a Task Force to deal with the problem. The Task Force will not be able to do anything if it does not have any money. With some money the persons who know about construction and lending know about building housing can leverage revenue sharing money to do much more than the members of City Council can do; or if they decided to go out and buy housing. Ms. Winner stated that is a very appropriate use for revenue sharing money. Second she would like to encourage the appropriation of revenue sharing money for in field housing in Community Development Target Areas. Community Development money cannot be used to construct new housing even though the Council has changed the policy to emphasize the rehabilitation of housing in these areas. They cannot avoid tearing down some housing, and they will need to have money from some place else other than Community Development funds to build in field

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housing in these areas.

Mayor Harris asked Ms. Winner to make her comments to the Housing Task Force also.

Councilmember Selden asked the rent level the clients were expecting to pay? Ms. Winner replied one client had been paying \$67 a month and thought she could pay up to \$70 a month, although she would not be allowed to pay that much in public housing. The other one probably could have paid between \$70 and \$80 a month.

Councilmember Short asked if the Housing Authority said to her that there is no Section 8 money available now in this community? Ms. Winner replied she limited herself to someone who needed three bedrooms. There is none available now for three bedrooms; they expect to get 25 three bedroom units as a result of the First Ward settlement; they do not have any idea when any more Section 8 certificates will be available for Charlotte. They are talking in terms of years for long waiting lists, not months.

Mayor Harris stated he would like to find out where all these people are living now. That Ms. Winner said there are 195 waiting for three bedroom housing. He would like to have the names and addresses of those people where they live now. Ms. Winner stated some of her clients just move in with relatives into overcrowded places. Mayor Harris stated he would just like to see the facts on this.

Councilmember Selden stated he has tried to get the names from that list, and it has been denied as being under public regulations that it is not public information. That this is not available to Council persons or anyone else.

Councilmember Short stated he thinks in general the answer is they crowd in on top of cousins, uncles, mothers and so forth.

Mayor Harris stated we should find out. Councilmember Selden stated he would really like to get this information.

Mary McLaughlin, 729 Baldwin Avenue - Cherry Community

Ms. McLaughlin stated the Steering Committee of the Cherry Community Organization was informed by Mr. Wallace of the Community Development Department that the drainage problem in Cherry would cost approximately \$450,000 to repair. They feel the General Revenue Sharing Funds should be used to correct the problem rather than taking the money from the CD allocation for Cherry.

First it is not clear where the drainage problem starts; many people feel much of the excess water comes from the Queens Road area; they doubt that CD funds allocated for a certain Target Area can be spent outside of that Target Area. Second, they feel the use of the allocation to do drainage work will hurt their efforts in developing a Preliminary Plan. In December, they informed City Council the Cherry Community Organization, with the assistance of the Community Development Department, was in the process of developing a Three Year Plan to guarantee safe, sound, rehabilitated housing for Cherry residents. They hope to present this plan for approval in April. Their efforts will be seriously set back if a larger percentage of the Target Area allocation has to be spent on a public works project. Last, the drainage problem has existed in the area for some time. It is their position that the City had a responsibility to fix the drainage problem in Cherry with money from the Public Works Department. Now that federal revenue sharing funds are available they feel the City can and should make the necessary repairs.

The Cherry Community Organization requests that \$450,000 of the \$5.0 million Revenue-Sharing Grant be spent on fixing the drainage problem in Cherry.

Max Webb, 1728 Academy Street - North Charlotte Association.

Mr. Webb stated at the beginning of the Community Development Program, boundaries were established. Since then it has been enlarged twice; it involves some 300 to 400 houses without any added allocation of money to upgrade the houses. What started as a successful program in this target area is gradually being eaten away with termites. They are beginning to show up

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while they work from lack of funds. He would suggest and recommend that City Council follow the recommendations of the Community Development Department submitted in the green book for the Fourth Year plan. Their recommendation was that \$600,000 from the First Ward Area be re-allocated to take care of the new addition to the target area. They believe this will be a deterrant or hinderance to the successful conclusion of a program already started if the funds are not reallocated.

Their second concern is the YMCA of North Charlotte and a request for funds to purchase a bus to be used in their programs.

Robert Mundt, 5811 Whittingham Drive - Northeast Community Organization.

Mr. Mundt stated their executive committee met last Thursday to consider priorities they might recommend for the expenditure of revenue sharing funds. The organization supports the emphasis that has been given to park acquisition development out of this type of funding. They hope continued allocations will go to the Plaza Road Park where the land has generally been acquired for the beginning of development of that park.

They have a particular request that has not been put into the plan. This is in terms of a regional park for Northeast Charlotte. They asked that some attention be given to the possibility of acquiring undeveloped land that begins close to the corner of Eastway and the Plaza and runs up along Orr Road behind Briarwood School in Northeast Charlotte. The area is covered with trees and is zoned insutrial. It poses two problems to them. One it could provide the necessary park land as it is the largest undeveloped area in Northeast Charlotte. Second, if it were ever cleared it would provide a drainage problem because it is a creek bed, and it does provide for drainage from that area. Third, if it were purchased and devoted to park land, it would provide the necessary buffer between their single family residential areas, and the adjoining commercial and industrial development.

They plan to pursue this with the Park Board and with the people concerning park planning. They bring it up at this point because what is necessary is the acquisition of this land which is for sale. They would prefer it be purchased for public purpose rather than developed adjoining their single family areas for industrial purposes.

Third they do acknowledge the acquisition of a small piece of property between the rear of Eastbrook Woods several months ago for the development of a neighborhood park. They would like to recommend that any distribution of funds for the purpose of park development be directed at least somewhat in that area where a minimum expenditure could get something off the ground.

Edith Proctor, 3120 Mathis Drive, Enderly Park Neighborhood Organization, and a affiliate of Carolina Action.

Ms. Proctor stated they have received some action from a lot of their discussions with Council in terms of a larger drainage line down Enderly Road. Then they have a commitment from the County Engineering Department to clean out their creek. If it does not rain, they will start that tomorrow.

Today they are here about the revenue sharing funds. They looked at how this money was spent last year. For example, \$215,000 for defensive driving courses, and \$300,000 for kitchen equipment for the Civic Center, etc. They think the money Council gets from the federal government should be better spent preserving older neighborhoods.

Their particular proposal is that the Council, instead of the present petition assessment program, use revenue sharing money to start up a comprehensive storm water drainage improvement program. This problem was brought to Mr. Dannelly's attention a few weeks ago; and she has been told today that Mr. Dannelly brought this up at the last Council Meeting. The cost in their neighborhood for this particular problem would be roughly \$80 to \$90 thousand to put in new drainage lines on the streets affected.

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Council needs to take a look at its present policies if it is going to keep some of the older sections from going down hill. There is a comprehensive housing policy; and Council for some years has had a comprehensive sidewalk improvement plan. They feel that just as deteriorated houses and busy streets where children have to walk will drive people away from parks in the city, the same is true where there are flooded streets, yards and basements.

Councilmember Short, Chairman of the Operations Committee, stated he has heard what Ms. Proctor said. That the Committee getting into the matter of Storm Water Management will have something on the agenda for April 5, and then there is a further presentation on April 20. The matter she has mentioned will not be ignored.

Councilmember Gantt stated in reading the minutes of the Operations Committee he noticed a comment by Mr. Crosland in which he made reference to the Enderly Park Area, and pointed out the drainage problem in this area was not from the urban development occurring in the area, but more to do with the perk tests of the soil. He asked Mr. Short if this has been checked out? Councilmember Short replied his own inspection of what happened in that area with the building of Freedom Drive and the businesses on either side of it, would lead him to believe the development out there has been the greater factor rather than the nature of the soil. They may have an overlay of bull taller, but what has been done in development out there is the big problem.

Councilmember Selden stated there are two things there. One relates to Freedom Drive, and the other to the soil perk.

William Finley, 814 Ideal Way - DRAINAGE PROBLEM ON PROPERTY

Mr. Finley stated he lives in the Dilworth Community and he has a storm sewer problem. He has lived there 21 years. About eight years ago he had a little stream beside his house and this stream began to enlarge and water coming through. He spent around \$1,000 of his own money and it did not do any good, and it has continued to enlarge. It is one of the worse in the city. He has asked the City Council and they say they did not have the money. The city quoted him a price of \$96,000 on fixing the drainage problem - \$15,000 for him, \$15,000 for the vacant lot next door, and \$66,000 by the City. He stated he does not have that kind of money. With this revenue sharing money he thinks they should think of the people in the older parts of the city who cannot afford money like that. Now is the time the City Council could show the poor people they want to help them because there is going to have to be help; it cannot continue to wash that way.

Councilmember Gantt asked if he wants the City to buy his house? Mr. Finley replied he offered to sale it. That he cannot sell it now; he cannot get any money for it because the water has washed it away; he could not even get 25% of what it is worth.

Mr. Finley stated when the streets were widened, and all the other things, the water just flowed in on him, and it is continuing. He would sell the house to the city, and buy it back after it is fixed; but he cannot sell it for what it was appraised right now as it is only worth about 35% of the value.

Councilmember Selden asked if he would object to living there if the drainage is fixed? Mr. Finley replied he intends to make that his home; that he is almost 75 years old, and he has no idea of moving unless that washes him out.

Ms. June Starrett, 1308 Interurban Avenue, Westchester Development

Ms. Starrett stated she is asking for help on the flooding and erosion. Beside her house is a drain that started off as a little stream you could step across. Right now when it rains, and in 1975 as a flooding area, they had 15 feet of water. It came to her front door steps. It has washed top soil off; gone under her backyard fence, and is washing in an arc way about ten feet

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from her house now. She is afraid if it keeps on, it will undermine the house foundation. The City has taken advantage of this stream for their storm sewage drainage. This week the city pipe came apart and part of this water was flowing down under the pipe, and a hole dropped out in her yard. The hole that dropped on the city's side was about three feet wide, and about 4 1/2 feet deep, and she could see a little tunnel going down under; and about ten feet from that in her yard was a hole. The man who came to appraise it stepped into it up to his knees.

They feel if this creek was banked up on each side it would undercut this current. When the water flows through it goes over the high rocks and causes a real rough situation. They cannot afford \$10,000 to fix this bank. If she fixes her side the neighbor on the other side would wash away.

Ms. Starrett requested that some of these funds be spent to held their flooding situation.

Mr. Payseur, 1408 Wellingford Drive (absent)

Councilmember Short stated the entire street must be talking about the same thing as Mrs Starrett and Mr. Finley. It is a long standing problem.

Charles H. Lamm, 5306 Galaway Drive.

Mr. Lamm stated he would say amen to what has been said about flooding, and would endorse what was said by Mr. Maundt about parks. Both are great possibilities for revenue sharing money.

Mr. Lamm stated he is employed by the North Carolina Division of Services for the Blind; he is a member of the Mayor's Committee for the Employment of the Handicapped and a member of the Committee for the Removal of Architectural Barriers. That he works with the handicapped in efforts to obtain employment. That he comes back to the problem of transportation for the handicapped in getting from their homes to the places of employment.

Mr. Lamm requested Council to consider the deficit in operating the bus system. The revenue sharing money can be used as a local matching source of Section 5 UMTA funds, and he would hope they would look at that not as the primary source of funding, and not as a long range source of funding; but as a supplement for a secondary source of funding to back what he hopes they will see fit to establish in some form as a dedicated revenue source for the operating deficit of the bus system. Until we can put the bus into the residential areas as well as the industrial areas, one or the other is only half the job. It is needed in both places. Until we get there we will not get the ridership that will produce the revenue to operate without a deficit.

Councilmember Gantt asked if he would be willing to vote for a referendum to allocate a certain number of cents of the tax rate to the deficit on the bus system? Mr. Lamm replied he would; he would like to see that opportunity afforded the voters. In his opinion the referendum needs to be one that will stand on its own merit; not be attached to something else that in hopes this would be a favorable one and not carry something else over.

Comments by members of Council

Councilmember Selden stated Council has heard a number of comments about needs in connection with storm water run-off. He asked for input from Public Works Engineering Division for an appraisal of the locations and estimated costs on an order of magnitude basis of correcting the storm water run-off situation as it is now envisioned. That is the items that have already come to that Department at this time.

Mayor Harris stated a few years ago Mr. Hopson gave a report and stated it is \$100.0 million for the draining of the creeks and the correcting of storm water run-off situations in the community.

Councilmember Selden stated he is not asking for the gilt edge package. That he will take Mr. Hopson's report; but he feels there are certain areas that

have high priority, and would like to see what the high priority cost would be.

Mr. Burkhalter, City Manager, stated he would like time to review this; he may be asking for about a year's work. If he is just talking about this, it will not be any problem. If he is talking about everything in the city, it would be a terrific problem. Councilmember Selden stated he will get with Mr. Burkhalter, and work this out.

Councilmember Leeper stated the Operations Committee is going to be making recommendations on the storm water. The City Manager stated a Storm Water Management presentation will be made on April 20.

Councilmember Short stated all these people have stated some good points with a number of them related to drainage. Ms. Winner spoke about housing which is on the minds of all members of Council. That he wants to add a word of appreciation for a very judicious use of this general revenue sharing money in the past. A certain percentage of it has twice gone for annexation and is one reason we have a Triple A financial rating. Along with drainage, along with housing and along with parks, he thinks they should keep in mind that we also have another study going for this sort of thing, and it has been one of the best uses ever made of revenue sharing money. He does not know that other towns, even where there was a statute such as we have in North Carolina, have used the money in this way. It was a wise decision, and one he thinks we can largely thank Mr. Burkhalter for.

ORDINANCE NO. 934-X TRANSFERRING FUNDS TO THE GENERAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FUND TO PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING EQUIPMENT AT THE CITY HALL ANNEX.

Motion was made by Councilmember Locke, seconded by Councilmember Selden, and carried unanimously, adopting the subject ordinance for the transfer of \$27,000 from the General Fund for office space for the Neighborhood Traffic Control Program.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 25, at Page 261.

COUNCIL AUTHORIZED EMPLOYMENT OF CONSULTANT TO STUDY QUESTION OF EXPANSION OF MINT MUSEUM WITH PROVISION THE CONSULTANT BE EMPLOYED BY THE CITY MANAGER.

Mr. Roddey Dowd, President of the Board of Trustees of the Mint Museum, and Mr. Milton Block, Director of the Mint Museum were present.

Mr. Dowd stated they presented a report to Council last week in an effort to have them feel as comfortable as possible as to a future site for the expansion of the Mint Museum. It does not presume anything, namely that they will approve, or have approved expanding the Mint Museum. This proposal is before Council simply because there was some feeling on the part of several members of Council, as well as others in the community, that all expansion sites should be studied fully.

Mr. Block called attention to the material which he presented to Council members today stating the first page is the proposal in the simplest form; second page is a capital summary of some of the major areas contained in the large report distributed earlier; then there is some information on the kinds of space that are projected, and this was done nearly a year ago.

Mr. Block stated they are rather like a library that is partly open to the public, and the boxes of books keep stacking up from generous donors, and they do not have the walls or shelves to put them on to make use of them; so they remain a partly used resource. These boxes of books keep taking up space in meeting rooms, in preparatory areas, and file rooms and so on, to a point where they need space if they are going to share these resources and make them usable to the entire community.

There have been three different committees studying this problem over a period of nearly three years; two directors and two architects. Many of those people, if not all of them, have been appointed by their own Board of

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Trustees, and therefore to produce an independent and fresh viewpoint, they now propose that an independent consultant, unknown personally to any of them, review the findings that seem to come up in these reports, and tell us we are either a hundred percent correct, partly correct, or tell us if there is a new and completely different plan that would better serve this area.

His biggest fear is delay. He has been working on it for a year and half, and things keep getting worse instead of better as far as space problems go. They endorse the consultant idea, and the sooner he gets here to take a hard look at the problem, and they get the independent report, and they can take the next step, the better off we will all be.

Councilmember Trosch stated she has read in detail the report and appreciates the additional information today regarding space requirements, and how it would be allocated.

She stated she has two basic problems with the request for the consultant and questions involving the expansion itself. First is the way the consultant will go about his or her work in that the person will be given the proposal saying either approve this or disapprove this. To her, objectivity will be very difficult in a one month's period of time to come into a city and to be given sort of the results and to come out with an objective study. The issue is much larger than this, and is what concerns her most. This issue has centered on downtown versus on-site expansion. She sees it as a much larger question that needs to be addressed. The inquiry is much too small as you move into the public sector. The Mint has a marvelous history in this community; and she applauds the hours of volunteer time and the many private dollars that have gone into the Mint. That we are at a point now where the public needs to know the objectives of the Mint in relation to the expenditure of public funds; and we must make sure it will not be a duplication of services in areas where the public has already placed money. How does the Mint fit into the entire Arts Community in Charlotte? An example is the proposed auditorium, 9,500 square feet, and we have the Spirit Square Auditorium that seats 800. This is a large investment the public invested a year ago. Another question she has, and the public needs to know - What are the criteria for accepting gifts at the Mint? Where is the Mint going with their art criteria? Obviously there are overwhelming donors giving a great deal of valuable art work that is the City's.

She stated she does not believe that just addressing the location is sufficient if we are considering enlisting public support for the proposed expansion. The cost conscious taxpayers will need more understanding of how the Mint inter-relates with other expenditures already public expenditures. She has questions regarding the scope of the inquiry. First, the approach of saying approve this, or disapprove it. Second, what the inter-relationship of the total community is, and how the Mint Trustees view this in relation to the community, and with the public.

Mr. Block replied in the scope of work cited in the proposal it says to test the plan put forward to approve it or change it, or substitute a completely different one. It is put in there for the reason they would not like the three years of work to be dismissed without some rationale. That all of this work should be tested. Was it work that all the committee did not overlap? Could all the people be wrong? Tell them, and get on with a new plan. He does not want to see the present work thrown away in favor of a plan that does not address that question. As far as the scope of the study, they all feel that much of that work has been done; but if Council does not, they are all open to expanding the breath of the consultant's activities to a point where it encompasses the very things she is talking about. Just as long as they get started and not faced with endless series of delays; there is much to be done, and time is a terrible enemy. That he does not think the Mint has any problem with expanding to re-examination of need, and some broader view of what is now conceived to be some duplication of effort, and bring that all into the same package.

Councilmember Locke stated she shares the same feelings as Ms. Trosch. Initially her response was that a short range/long range feasibility study was needed. She does not think what he has put together addresses that. It is going to have to be a longer range study. In a month's period of time, you cannot do what

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she feels needs to be done. That would not throw away all that has been done. It would be something they can really come up with that is feasible; that it will take longer than a month and she thinks more money than \$7,500. She thinks we will have to build into the contract a lot of different studies that will have to be addressed. The studies they have done; other studies have been done, and she is willing to hire a consultant to do that; and when the proper time comes will move that we hire a consultant, but that we add more to what the consultant will do.

Councilmember Selden stated in no way is he attempting to judge how the Mint Museum should be expanded. That will start with the results of the consultant. He feels, from the fact it has been pursued for three years and in depth for the past six months to a year, it is time to get on with a study. In this particular, it seems it is no difference between what Council's view is as to hiring a consultant and what the Museum's Trustees' view is in terms of hiring a study.

He would like to propose that the Council approve the hiring of a consultant, utilizing a committee of three to pick that consultant; that the initial funding of it be at \$10,000 (which was what we considered originally) and if there was justification because of greater indepth additional costs beyond \$10,000 then the consultant would bring this back to Council for additional funding, if it was necessary.

That the ideal three persons would be one from Council, one from the Arts and Science and ...

Mayor Harris asked if he is making a motion; that it should be made in the form of a motion.

Councilmember Selden moved that Council approve the hiring of a consultant to study the question of expansion of the Mint Museum; that an initial authorization of \$10,000 be authorized; that if funding beyond that is required it would be addressed to Council and subsequently justified; and that the consultant be picked by a selection committee of three. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Locke.

Councilmember Selden stated the original consideration of cost was \$10,000 before the package came to Council - the package states \$7,500. That \$10,000 in terms of full indepth consultation fees is not abnormal when you consider the different aspects of this project. If it can be done for less than \$10,000 he would say more power to him. This is an initial proposal. Councilmember Leeper stated the same thing could apply to the \$7,500. If he needed more funds, he could come request it? Councilmember Selden replied that is true; that he will back up to the \$7500 if that is a stumbling block.

Councilmember Trosch stated Mr. Carroll has mentioned to her he would like to be here for further discussion on this; also Ms. Frech is very interested in this matter. She is not sure of the total expanse of Mr. Selden's proposal so she is not sure as to whether it would cover their questions. Councilmember Selden stated he has talked informally with both Mr. Carroll and Ms. Frech and got the opinion that they thought the consultant was a good idea. Councilmember Trosch asked if the scope is expanded to look at the relationship with the community, and the other services in the community? Councilmember Selden stated he thinks these are factors that have to be examined. Mayor Harris stated he would like to clarify something. That the cost of the consultant has to be addressed with the charge, and the charge here varies along with some of the Council members. Some are speaking in terms of a larger charge than the site of downtown versus suburbs. They are talking about the inner workings of the Mint; the internal operations from the standpoint of whether they have performing arts versus visual arts in the Mint. Then that is what they need to say to Mr. Block.

Councilmember Gantt stated he does not think there is any doubt in anyone's mind but the Mint needs expansion; that he does not think the charge to the consultant should be whether or not it is expanded. That he thinks the title to this site study is very appropriate in that in evaluating a site, we ask him to look at all the other facets. It seems we would have to go into evaluation of where the best site would be. That would have to be to

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look at the linkage between the other arts programs in the community, with the Mint Office and its particular goals as it is aimed with the consultant. The Site Study Consultant is someone who is now looking - assume the Board itself has done its evaluation and said in its report it was done on the basis of what they, the Museum people feel, is good for the Mint Museum. The Site Study Consultant is looking at it in a little broader context. Councilmember Trosch stated not according to the proposal. Councilmember Gantt stated we are talking about a definition of this for the three people who will get together in the selection process, and has to in the process. Otherwise there would be no need for a Site Study Consultant because they have established a case for expanding the Mint Museum, and have room to do it on this site. The only other reason for the study, seemingly is to look at how this facility could be developed as a link to the other arts which we have in the community. He thinks we are talking about a consultant who has to deal with the site, but it is not that simple a question - which is to relocate here, or relocate there.

Councilmember Short stated the material presented to Council has three or four reasons favoring a single unit museum; then it goes on to suggest "confirmatory" data be obtained. That he thinks that is an unfortunate choice of words. Below there is the suggestion that this be submitted to the public in a bond referendum after the proposal of "confirmatory" data has been obtained. He has the feeling that a consultant selected by a group that includes the President of the Arts and Science Council, and includes the Director of the Mint is just going to be compromised from the start; even though there is someone from city government involved, he is basically outvoted from the start. It simply looks as if this person was brought in by a certain cultural group with a purpose of "confirmatory" data. He would suggest that the motion be amended to provide that this consultant, who will be operating 100% from public funds, be employed by the City Manager of the City of Charlotte. With that we would eliminate the difficulties he would start under. From there, this consultant could go in any direction, and Council could go to the public in a bond referendum.

Councilmember Locke stated she agrees with Mr. Short on that point, and would agree to the change.

Councilmember Selden stated he did not identify in the motion who they would be. He simply said a committee of three. If Council would feel more comfortable with it, he will amend the motion to say "place this responsibility in the hands of the city manager." Councilmember Locke agreed to the amendment of the motion.

Councilmember Chafin asked how the City Manager feels about this? Mr. Burkhalter replied he has no problem with doing it. The fact they are going to select their own consultant might not look right. Mayor Harris stated whatever is done, the Council should be able to give its blessings. That it should come to Council.

Mr. Dowd stated they will be very supportive of that, and feel Mr. Burkhalter will make a very positive choice.

Mr. Burkhalter stated this has to come back to Council for contract. That he would like to ask Mr. Selden to remove the \$10,000 figure from his motion, and not mention any figure at all.

Councilmember Selden stated he will remove the figure from the motion. Councilmember Locke agreed to the removal.

Councilmember Chafin stated she hopes that all the comments that have been heard around the table are taken into consideration in the charge to the consultant. She shares many of the comments; we need a broader charge; we need a set of recommendations that deal not so much with the site of the expansion, but the program content of the expansion. How the Mint is going

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to serve the needs of this community on a long range basis. It is that kind of information that we are going to need in order to even begin to discuss a bond referendum.

Mr. Dowd stated they will be very positive about it, and very supportative of it. As you know when you pay for a consultant, the more you ask the person to do, the more it costs.

The vote was taken on the motion by Councilmember Selden as amended, which reads as follows: "That Council approve the hiring of a consultant to study the question of expansion of the Mint Museum, and the employment of the consultant be placed in the hands of the city manager.", and carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 935-X TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED BALANCE OF THE 1972 WATER BOND FUND TO PROVIDE A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR MINOR WATER SYSTEM EXTENSIONS.

Motion was made by Councilmember Short, seconded by Councilmember Selden, and carried unanimously adopting the subject ordinance transferring \$50,000 for minor water systems extensions.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 25, at Page 262.

ORDINANCE NO. 936-X AMENDING THE 1977-78 BUDGET ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND CONTINGENCY TO PROVIDE A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE.

Motion was made by Councilmember Locke, seconded by Councilmember Selden, and carried unanimously, adopting the subject ordinance transferrring \$7,500 to the City Clerk's budget for over-run in accounts.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 25, at Page 263.

DISCUSSION OF THE PLANNING DIRECTOR VACANCY.

Mayor Harris stated Council has received a request through the City Manager from the County requesting that they withhold a decision on this matter.

Councilmember Gantt stated since he brought this up last week he has had a chance to talk to some of the members of Council, and he wants to clarify the record that this is not an attempt on his part, or the Council's part, to usurp whatever authority the Planning Commission has in this area, following the idea of Council participation, motivated more by concern that the Planning Director is a unique individual in this community, and as such Council needs to have a very high profile in terms of making this selection.

He realizes in retrospect that can be a very risky business with the Planning Director coming in the middle of a political imbroglio would be less effective over the long haul. On the other hand, one cannot really say our Planning Commission itself has not become involved in political situations, which he thinks are unfortunate to the entire planning process.

He would like to delay any effort on the suggestion he made last week, which was to appoint members of this Council or requiring some group of this Council to participate with the Search Committee of the Planning Commission, and invite the County Commission to do the same, and move ahead in the selection of the Planning Director. That for the moment he will back off from that, with the exception of saying he does believe we should ask the Planning Commission to cease and desist at this time in the selection of a planning director. That he thinks to a large extent the Council and the County Commission can seek at this point to evaluate the planning

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process itself, and the role of the planning director. It is incumbent upon both bodies to do that. It occurs to him that even where Charlotte is in its development, the fact that we are at a cross road, and we have not hired a planning director in 20 something years, that it may be a good time for an evaluation of this process. He knows a number of Council members are interested in seeing that kind of thing done. He is a little at a lost as to why it is necessary to fill this position immediately, and would want to propose that Council and the Mayor ask the County Commission to participate with us in the possibility of re-evaluating the entire planning process. In addition to that the relationship of the planning to the governmental bodies. It has been sometime since we have taken a look at that process. This would be very appropriate time to do it rather than hiring someone, and in effect having the evaluation after someone comes on board, and the job description might substantially change. He is at a lost to figure out what damage we will have done to the existing planning process by not hiring a new planning director at this point. If the evaluation takes two or three months period and the dialogue with the County Commission, then so be it. Out of that we can give a re-definition or reconfirmation of the existing process we have, and the role of the planning director.

Councilmember Trosh stated she would like to re-confirm what Mr. Gantt has said. She has been very concerned with the public's conception of planning in Charlotte right now, and we are at a cross road in our growth as a City. This is a key position, and we all realize it. That Mr. Gantt's approach is the best approach given several approaches we have toyed with. It is time for us to look at the process to either confirm it, alter it, or whatever need be. Holding off the hiring of the director until this is looked at give more strength when a director is brought in as to the fact it has been looked at, and this is what the community and elected officials are supportive of in the conception of the planning process, the planning director and the planning commission. She strongly supports this.

Councilmember Cox stated he is at a lost also. That he has heard these words now for several weeks - re-evaluating the entire planning process. That questions have been raised for him; he does not know what kinds of flavors planning directors come in. He always thought when you asked for a planning director you went out and asked for a technician. But Mr. Gant and Ms. Troesch through their diligence have opened his eyes considerably. After having thought about his proposal, and being slightly uncomfortable with it last week, he is very comfortable with this kind of approach because he has never been comfortable going out to buy something unless he knew what he was going to buy. For that reason, he thinks he will support what they are trying to do.

Mayor Harris stated he would like to clarify and make sure a point is clear. That is the idea that we would not be buying anyone at this point. Councilmember Cox stated he hopes those words do not get chosen literally. That he thinks they understand the intent of what he is trying to say. Mayor Harris stated this will be looking at policy; defining the position because we definitely would not want to change the process of hiring. But it is what the person would do.

Mayor Harris asked if any of them have ever seen a clear definition of a planning function? Councilmember Short stated he was going to ask that same question? They speak of changing? What would be an example of a change in the planning procedure.

Councilmember Gantt stated prior to coming on Council, the AIA took a very hard look at the planning process. That he is not suggesting those recommendations be the ones we look at; but there are a number of things they questioned about the relationship of the planning commission to the function of the city manager, and his operations of the city, and the county. For

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that matter where they wanted to place planning in terms of priority in this community. That he suspects it does not have the position that the Public Works Department has in city functions. Even beyond that the technicals questions which came up about the charter the other day - who hires, and who should hire; these kinds of things can be clarified in that kind of review. Or the kinds of positions we would like to see in the department itself; which again is the kind of person we want to bring in. It use to be that planning involved the land use map; and it has become a considerably different kind of animal. The other week the City Manager asked them to include funding for six new positions - social planners. Ten years ago, the average municipal planning director did not know what a social planner was. There are a lot of different things to be asked about it.

Councilmember Cox stated he had the opportunity today to talk to a councilmember in another location; and they talked about this very question. That this man opened his eyes a lot. He stated he thinks Mr. Gantt's suggestions are very good; and that we take a look at that relationship and either confirm it or slightly re-define it; or even completely re-define it.

Mayor Harris asked if they want the entire Council involved in this; or would they prefer the Planning and Public Works Committee study it? That this would be talking about the intimate details, discussions etc. Councilmember Locke stated she thinks it has to be done by Council as a whole. Councilmember Selden agreed.

Councilmember Chafin asked how a total council can deal with the questions that Mr. Gantt has raised. It is going to take either a committee or a consultant to go out and look at the structure - innovative structures in other communities; they have to look at the relationship with the county. There has to be input from the County since they share responsibility.

Councilmember Chafin asked what kind of mechanism Mr. Gantt has in mind? Councilmember Gantt replied the first mechanism was for the Mayor to talk to the Chairman of the County Commission. Then there would be the normal staff work by the City Manager - the normal process that it would go through. He assumes there would be some committee of council, along with the County Commission, to look at this problem.

Mayor Harris asked what he is to talk to Mr. Foley about? Councilmember Gantt replied all these things they have been discussing, and whether or not the County will be willing to go along with the study. What he cannot deal with is opposition from the Planning Commission; and the process of looking for a director should stop.

Mayor Harris stated he has written a letter to them already, which he addressed to Mr. Tate after Council meeting last week, on that subject asking them not to hire anyone else until they receive further input from the Council

Mr. Burkhalter, City Manager, stated he has talked with Mr. Tate at great length on several parts of this. He does not think Council has to worry about them hiring anyone. They are not gung ho to defy Council. He stated he does think Council should not postpone this too much. Councilmember Gantt stated he is not talking about something that will take a year to do. Mayor Harris stated he will talk to Mr. Foley tomorrow.

Mr. Burkhalter stated he has the duties of a planning director as defined by the classification program for salary purposes. It is not a job description, but duties performed for basis of salary. He senses they are talking not necessarily about hiring someone for the job; but philosophy of planning. Councilmember Trosch stated that is right; then within that you can hire with a clear understanding.

Councilmember Cox stated it would help him if Council received a list of questions - list of choices - to try to spark some thoughts. It would help him. Councilmember Gantt stated he does not think he can do that today; but he thinks the Committee, once formed, maybe they could do that.

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Mayor Harris stated he has sensed all Council members would like to do this. That he will talk to Mr. Foley tomorrow. He asked what kind of body do they want to do it. This needs to begin posthaste.

Councilmember Locke stated it would have to be done in conjunction with the County Commission. Mayor Harris stated he can work on that. But he is asking how Council wants to go about it from the standpoint of the involvement of Council. Do they want a Committee - there are four standing committees - Planning and Public Works is the normal committee that he would assign this to.

Councilmember Leeper stated we can identify several members who have shown an enormous amount of interest - all members are concerned. As far as he is concerned if two people could be identified to work in conjunction with two people from the county commission - Mr. Gantt and Ms. Trosch have gone far and above the call of duty to look into this. Mayor Harris stated he has some misgivings about that because there have been two member committees before who did not bring back a consensus of the Council; that he thinks a five member body of a committee would be more effective.

Mr. Burkhalter stated they are talking about two different things. Policy for what the planning function is and they are not talking about the selection of a person. Mayor Harris replied that is right; they are talking about a study of the planning functions; and it should be a five member body. Every member of Council could be involved.

Councilmember Selden stated he is very concerned about this matter. That he came prepared to make two motions, neither of which is he going to make. In the ultimate he feels Council must finalize the authority, change the ordinance that sets up the authority. That was going to be one of his motions; but he is tabling that. He feels we must establish directions in terms of philosophy; must establish some degree of guidelines in terms of the implementation of that philosophy. He urgently suggests that it not be a committee of two, but some larger number where there is enough diversion of viewpoints where there will be a full acceptance when the philosophy comes back to Council to be voted on.

Mayor Harris stated he will contact Mr. Foley tomorrow, and he will assign this matter to the Planning and Public Works Committee for study of our planning function, with recommendation back to the City Council.

Councilmember Short stated he hopes the Mayor will rejoin him in restating what Mr. Burkhalter said a few minutes ago - that this committee is for the purpose of inquiring into the planning process, and will not evolve into a committee that will literally make the selection of the new planning director. All around this table there are a great many council members who feel this is a job in some way for equal voice by all council members.

BEVERLY FORD REAPPOINTED TO THE CIVIL SERVICE BOARD TO COMPLETE PRESENT TERM.

Motion was made by Councilmember Short, and seconded by Councilmember Gantt to reappoint Beverly Ford to the Civil Service Board for a term to expire May 15, 1980.

Councilmember Cox stated Ms. Ford was automatically removed because of attendance. That Mr. Martin, Chairman of the Board, and Ms. Furr, a member of the Committee, say that circumstances that surrounded Ms. Ford's problem last year have gone away. That she is a welcome member of that Board; her effectiveness is beyond question. That he would support the re-nomination of Ms. Ford.

Councilmember Cox stated he would like clarification about the procedure in these matters. In this particular case of the Civil Service Board, if

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the action is automatic at 75 percent, and the notification is after that, then you may get into a position where the Civil Service Board has fired someone with a member who was not on the Board. The question is, should it be made automatic, or should it require some positive action by the Committee?

Councilmember Locke stated Council talked about this several years ago, and decided that 75 percent was automatic. Councilmember Cox stated he would ask Council to reconsider that, especially in terms of the Civil Service Board. When you say automatic and it takes a month to notify, then you may have taken an action with an illegitimate member of the Board.

Councilmember Short suggested that Council proceed with the motion, and then have the discussion

The vote was taken on the motion, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Burkhalter, City Manager, stated staff has been reviewing this, and some other questions have come up. As an example, the Parade Permit Committee never has a regular meeting. There are several things about this that should be decided. That it has been officially determined that if you miss a call meeting, it counts against the 75 percent. He will work on this and maybe come back with a little different recommendation. Councilmember Gantt stated he did not have that understanding; he thought we were talking about the regular meetings. Mr. Underhill, City Attorney, stated it reads "regular or called" meetings or "special" meetings.

Mr. Burkhalter stated he would like to formalize a procedure for the Chairman to advise us of the attendance.

Councilmember Short asked that he keep in mind the two boards that have power on their own to proceed - the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Civil Service Board. The others are advisory boards and the 75% could apply.

CONTRACTS REJECTED AND AWARDED.

(a) Motion was made by Councilmember Locke, seconded by Councilmember Trosch and carried unanimously to reject all bids received for sewer rodding machine and permission granted to readvertise for the equipment after revision of the specifications.

(b) Upon motion of Councilmember Cox, seconded by Councilmember Selden, and carried unanimously, contract was awarded the low bidder, Parnell-Martin Company, in the amount of \$56,784.63, on a unit price basis, for nickel copper alloy steel pipe.

The following bids were received:

Parnell -Martin Company	\$56,784.63
ITT Grinnell Corporation	59,605.00

(c) Councilmember Locke moved award of contract to the low bidder, Bor-Tun-Co, Inc., in the amount of \$7,210, on a unit price basis, for boring under Seaboard Coast Line Railroad track for sanitary sewer construction along Old Monroe Road. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Chafin, and carried unanimously.

The following bids were received:

Bor-Tun-Co	\$ 7,210.00
Sanders Brothers, Inc.	9,151.55

ITEM REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA.

Councilmember Selden requested that Agenda Item No. 13 for disposal of Housing Records be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

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CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED.

Motion was made by Councilmember Locke, seconded by Councilmember Chafin, and carried unanimously, approving the consent agenda with the exception of Item 13, as follows:

- (1) Loan agreement with Nathaniel E. Jones and Victoria Jones, trading as Jones Fencing and Grading Contractor, in the amount of \$15,000 to provide working capital while performing work on the Southside Community Development Street Tree Planting Contract.
- (2) Resolution authorizing refund of certain taxes in the total amount of \$6,339.78, which were collected through clerical error and illegal levy against 22 tax accounts.

Resolution is recorded in full in Resolutions Book 13, at Pages 195 and 196.

- (3) Petition to the North Carolina Department of Transportation to abandon Certain streets located in the areas annexed by the City on December 1, 1977, and A Resolution authorizing the City of Charlotte to accept for maintenance certain streets located in the areas annexed to the City of Charlotte on December 1, 1977.

Resolution is recorded in full in Resolutions Book 13, at Pages 197 through 205.

- (4) Contract with Lincoln Property Company for construction of 450 feet of 8-inch cast iron water main and one fire hydrant to serve Park Colony Apartments, inside the city, at an estimated cost of \$5,100.
- (5) Encroachment agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation permitting the City to service and maintain existing water and sewer lines in Falconbridge Subdivision Sections I-A and I-B.
- (6) Property transactions:

- (a) Acquisition of 15' x 3,242.98' of easement, plus temporary construction easement, from Frank Kenneth Springstead and wife, 9144 Idlewild Road, at \$1.00, for sanitary sewer trunk to serve Deerhurst Subdivision.
- (b) Acquisition of 5' x 15' of easement, from Arlen Realty Inc., 251 Eastway Drive, at \$1.00, for sanitary sewer to serve North Park Mall.
- (c) Acquisition of 15' x 19.91' of easement, plus temporary construction easement, from Joyce Dickson Southern and R.E. Southern, 8410 Knollwood Circle, at \$20, for Toby Creek sanitary sewer outfall.
- (d) Acquisition of 30' x 2,344.66' of easement, from Masonic and Eastern Star Home of N. C., Inc., and Huntersville Presbyterian Church, at end of Gibson Park Road, at \$2,400, for right of way for Huntersville Pump Station and Pressure Line.

REQUEST TO DISPOSE OF HOUSING RECORDS MAINTAINED BY BUILDING INSPECTION DEPARTMENT DEFERRED FOR THREE WEEKS.

After explanation of the types of papers to be disposed of by Director of Building Inspection, Councilmember Selden stated he would like an opportunity to take a look at what is there.

Motion was made by Councilmember Gantt, seconded by Councilmember Locke, and carried unanimously to defer the item for three weeks.

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REPORT ON HEARING BEFORE JUDGE ON INDEPENDENCE FREEWAY BY CITY ATTORNEY.

Mr. Underhill, City Attorney, stated a hearing was held this morning before Judge McMillan on the Independence Freeway project. The hearing was largely limited to the air quality study which the court ordered to be made for carbon monoxide and hydrocarbon chemicals. There was quite a bit of technical testimony in that regard. The hearing lasted two and half hours, and at the conclusion the Judge took it under advisement and said he would make his decision as promptly as he could.

The effect of that meeting is the injunction will continue in effect until he makes some contrary decision. It appears to him that perhaps that case is getting toward a point where final resolution is now in the making.

The immediate subject is the segment that would connect Independence Boulevard at Kenilworth Avenue, although the law suit does embrace the entire remaining link.

COMMENTS ON REQUEST FOR PARK IN GARDEN PARK-NORTHWOOD ESTATES AREA.

Councilmember Dannelly stated he would like to re-emphasize to the Council the piece of property that Mr. McGill spoke about during the hearing under revenue sharing. That Mr. McGill only indicated two communities. It is a beautiful piece of property; it is a buffer; and it serves Northwood Estates and Garden Park and University Park North -Garden City and Firestone. There are hundreds of youngsters living in those areas who do not have the means of getting to a park at present, including the Hornets Nest Park, unless they take a dangerous walk, or bicycle ride.

SARAH STEVENSON NOMINATED FOR REAPPOINTMENT TO MUNICIPAL INFORMATION ADVISORY BOARD.

Councilmember Dannelly placed in nomination the name of Ms. Sarah Stevenson to succeed herself for a three year term on the Municipal Information Advisory Board.

LEGISLATION CONCERNING TAXING OF AUTOMOBILES THROUGH PURCHASE OF STATE LICENSE REQUESTED PLACED ON AGENDA AT A NEAR FUTURE DATE.

Councilmember Short stated Council was rightly concerned recently that we were not getting all the money from our automobile decals and put a \$15 fine on that, which prompted an increase activity. That we were losing up toward \$50 or \$75 thousand a year on that.

That he would like to mention a related matter. In 1975 there was a lot of discussion about the fact that the City of Charlotte was losing over half million dollars a year from the fact that a lot of citizens did not list their automobiles for the property tax. In the county this was reflected in a sum something like \$675,000 of loss. Between the two the loss was well over a million dollars.

At that time the legislature had a bill which the Council strongly backed to eliminate the property tax on all automobiles throughout the State of North Carolina, and to substitute instead an excise tax which would be paid at the time a license would be purchased, and it would be about the same amount of money as normally applied for property tax for local government. The State would then return this money to the counties and to the cities so that it would be impossible to get a license without paying property tax, or the tax that would be a substitute for the property tax. The amount of money lost obviously is tremendous.

He stated he would like to ask the City Attorney what happened to this bill, and whether Council has any interest in pushing this matter further.

Mr. Underhill replied that legislation was not enacted. It was re-introduced in the 1977 session and was not enacted by that session. But what did come out of that effort was the appointment of a study commission by the General

Assembly to study the ad valorem tax system throughout the State and with particular emphasis of a study on the problem with failure of persons to register automobiles. It charged that Commission with making legislative recommendations back to the 1978 Session. He is told that Commission is functioning. Whether they will have recommendations that might be considered by the 1978 Session or not, he does not know. The problem has not died; it has not received legislative action; it is still in the study stage. That he knows the League of Municipalities is watching it very closely.

Councilmember Short stated this is a situation where those who simply do not want to be good citizens of this community have, in effect, deprived the community of well over a million or \$1.2 million right here in Mecklenburg and Charlotte.

Councilmember Short requested that this be placed on an agenda for two or three meetings hence. At that time he has in mind to make a motion that we send a resolution to this commission and urge them to proceed with this kind of legislation.

The City Manager stated the complaints he has received about the automobile license has not been on the license itself, but on the fact there are many people who do not have our license and are not paying their personal taxes, and there is no way of checking those people if they live in rented apartments and other places. There are other ways and he hopes they looked at those such as not selling a license without a receipt on a personal property tax.

Mayor Harris stated Charlotte has two places in Charlotte to buy license tags, and we have a slightly larger population than Raleigh. That Raleigh has either five or seven location doing the same thing. If we are going to use the approach suggested then we should let our State people know about this also.

Councilmember Short stated a part of the picture he is bringing up can relate to the fact that perhaps the personal tax on automobiles should be severed from other personal property tax. The automobile is more expensive for this community to accommodate, or for local government to accommodate, than something like someone's furniture. By this means it might be possible to put a different rate of taxation on the various commodities related to the amount of expense they create.

REPORT ON HOUSING TASK FORCE COMMITTEE.

Councilmember Chafin stated at the Council Retreat, she was authorized to organize a Housing Task Force. She is making progress on this. She has spent the last week talking with a number of people who have been involved in housing in Charlotte who have an interest, who represent the various segments of the community that should be part of such a task force, or study committee.

She is very close to developing a good consensus on the membership of the Committee. She hopes to be able to release the names by the end of the week, or by the first of next week.

CITY MANAGER TO DETERMINE IF BEVERLY DRIVE IS A PART OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD CUT THROUGH TRAFFIC PETITION FOR SHERWOOD AVENUE.

Councilmember Chafin asked the City Manager if he will find out for her if the petition regarding Sherwood Avenue as relates to Neighborhood Cut Through Traffic includes Beverly Drive. She has received calls from several residents of Beverly Drive.

COMMENTS ON ENERGY.

Councilmember Chafin stated she was disappointed to learn that our application to the State Energy Office was not approved for funding. She asked what sort of contingency plans we have to develop, as we have talked about in the past, a city energy program, recognizing that we are concerned primarily with internal

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operations. Mr. Burkhalter, City Manager, replied there is an internal committee at staff level which is working on this. That some experimenting is being done now with the fire department- Energy Audit. There is a conference which both he and Mr. Bobo are concerned about, and they may be able to get some more information.

He stated they are exploring now to find if there are other sources of revenue. Otherwise they will probably come at budget time to Council with some organizational setup. If this Committee is functioning real good by then, he may not. We will probably need someone to ramrod this; probably with mechanical engineering qualifications.

Councilmember Chafin stated if Congress would pass the National Energy Act it would provide considerable funds to local communities for conservation efforts.

Mr. Burkhalter stated staff is working very closely with Duke Power; there may be a reduction of hours; changing hours. There are some real concerns about the loss of radio communications. There is a memo that is being sent to Council to tell them how they are working on this.

Councilmember Chafin stated she hopes we will continue to pursue this; it is extremely important. That she intends to write our Congressional representatives and she hopes the other Council members will do the same.

Mayor Harris asked if there is any way to monitor the street lighting? Mr. Burkhalter replied there is control; but we would be running into problems; they are controlled individually. There are some he has asked if we could use a master switch on, and this is being investigated. If they cut the current off 127 electrical traffic signals, do you realize what will happen to us? There is no emergency power to operate them. There is emergency power in the cases of water and sewer and police and fire dispatching. But for traffic signals there is none. He stated there is no indication this might occur as yet; but in some areas it could. They are making plans to take care of some of these. Mayor Harris asked that he share those plans with the Council.

WILLIAM HULSE NOMINATED FOR REAPPOINTMENT TO THE REGIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Councilmember Chafin placed in nomination the name of Mr. William Hulse for reappointment to the Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee.

REPORT ON NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES MEETING.

Councilmember Locke stated she would like to report on the National League of Cities Meeting. Also she was charged \$2.58 per day for room tax. That she thinks it is long overdue for a hotel/motel tax in the City of Charlotte.

She stated the conference was held mainly on the national urban policy which has not been announced. Everyone talked about it, but no one could find what the national urban policy is. They can only conjecture what it will or will not be. One thing they know almost for sure is the money will be funneled through the States, and the money will come to us from the State. Hopefully there will be a partnership between the Governor and the local elected officials and private enterprise.

There was great stress on regionalism - the Frost Belt versus the Sun Belt. The Frost Belt is after every ounce of money they can get under the national urban policy in order to prevent Gold Bonds from leaving their state. We will have to fight for everything we get. She was fortunate to go before panels helping to draft the national urban policy, and was able to have dialogue with some of the people on the panel. She said to them that it seemed unfortunate that the national urban policy is being drafted by the bureaucrats of Washington, with no mayors or city managers.

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Then on Tuesday it seems some Mayors were called in and some of the department heads of the cabinet to discuss some of the national urban policy proposals. She also said as one person she would like to see the cities given incentives - those cities that have worked hard and done a good job with their block grants be given incentives in the national urban policy. She also asked them to put in, if possible, low interest loans for rehabilitation of houses outside of community development target areas. Hopefully that will be in the national policy. We are going to have to read very carefully; we will have to go to our legislators and congressmen and fight for every little bit we can get. The Frost Belt is already geared up to do that; they have held conferences; the Northeastern region has held a conference and came out with their proposals; so did the Western area - they have put together \$80,000 in seed money lobbying for this national urban policy.

That we all in the southeastern part of the United States have to work together to see that we, the cities in the southeast, get what we need.

Councilmember Locke stated she was quoted in the Nations Cities.

NOMINATIONS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMITTEES.

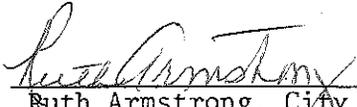
Councilmember Leeper placed in nomination the name of Ms. Barbara Watson to succeed herself for a three year term on the Municipal Information Advisory Board.

Councilmember Selden placed in nomination the names of Chief Jack Lee as Chairman of the Parade Permit Committee, and Commander Eidson as Vice Chairman of the Parade Permit Committee.

Councilmember Selden placed in nomination the name of William H. Williamson III for appointment to the Auditorium-Coliseum-Civic Center Authority for a three year term.

ADJOURNMENT.

Upon motion of Councilmember Trosch, seconded by Councilmember Selden, and carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned.


Ruth Armstrong, City Clerk